

VSH Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2009, 1:30 pm

Nursing Classroom

Type of meeting: Oversight

Facilitator: Beth Tanzman, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health

Note taker: Denise McCarty

Governing Body Members: Paul Dupre, Patrick Flood, (Designee for Secretary Robert Hofmann); Dr. William McMains; Ann Moore, Kate Purcell, Terry Rowe, VSH Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Simpatico, VSH Medical Director, Dr. Jay Batra, VSH Associate Medical Director

Attendees: Jessica Oski, DMH Legal Department; Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Chief

Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes

The February 18th meeting minutes were reviewed by the Steering Committee. Changes were made to the Commissioner's Report section to reflect house bill instead of rule and a paragraph was added to reflect Kate Purcell's idea and advocacy of a ping pong table for the patients to use. Patrick Flood made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Kate Purcell seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously. BT asked TR if she could prepare a presentation for the next meeting on the topic of overtime use at VSH. TR said that she would coordinate with Anne Jerman, Nursing Administrator to make a presentation about this.

Discussed: Executive Director's Report (with Terry Rowe)

Terry reported that Jeff Geller was at VSH today and tomorrow (3/18 & 3/19) in his capacity as our consultant for the DOJ Settlement Agreement. He is assisting us with treatment planning, active treatment, and medical staff requirements while he is here. He is also planning to meet with Mike Kuhn from BGS to make environmental renovation recommendations to him. Kate Purcell voiced her concerns about Dr. Geller having a conflict of interest if we are paying him to be a consultant to become DOJ compliant and his role as a DOJ inspector. Dr. Geller's selection was approved by the DOJ attorneys. Discussion followed.

We just hired Michael Sabourin as the VSH Patient Representative. He has already started. This position is funded by DMH and managed by VPS. He will work 20 hours per week (position description and responsibilities hand out reviewed).

The Pro-Act de-escalation training program that replaces the NAPPI training will be implemented with staff beginning at the end of March 2009. All VSH staff will be trained in this model.

(End of Executive Director's Report)

Discussed: Commissioner's/Deputy Commissioner's Report (with Beth Tanzman, Deputy Commissioner)

Beth stated that Michael could not attend today's meeting due to being requested to return to the legislature. Beth introduced Dr. Jay Batra to the Steering Committee. Dr. Batra reviewed his education and work history with the committee. Beth reported that there were 195 state positions being cut in the agency of Human Services. Four of those positions were with the Dept. of Mental Health. BT stated that there was nothing new to report about the CMS appeal. It is still in action as a mechanism to keep the application for recertification open. We received some press over the weekend regarding the Futures Project and the Treatment Mall renovations. Beth reviewed cost estimates for the treatment mall renovations at VSH, the secure residential recovery program in Waterbury, and the Rutland Regional Medical Center project.

(End of Report)

Discussed: Quality Assurance Department (with Tommie Murray, Quality Assurance Chief)

Tommie Murray presented a quality assurance, performance improvement and grievance process at VSH. The presentation identified what role quality assurance assists with at VSH, identifying performance improvement, having a model for improvement, what the current grievance process is, what steps are being taken to improve this process, what the intended outcome should be, what the next steps are.

(End of Quality Assurance Report)

Other Business

Re-appointment of VSH Physicians – The doctors being reappointed currently work at VSH either as an attending or on-call physician. Patrick Flood recommended that the physician reappointment process was more of a VSH administrative function rather than a committee function. He thought the VSH Steering Committee should oversee the process and give input but let VSH administration implement the process of reappointment. The committee agreed that they would like to better understand the quality of care and best practices that the medical staff use but that the medical director should recommend to the committee to approve appointment or reappointment of physicians.

Policies with Jessica Oski

Interim Governance Policy – The Steering Committee reviewed the policy. No changes were made. There was public comment made regarding concerns about the policy development process. JO addressed what the process is. Patrick Flood motioned to recommend approval of this policy by the DMH Commissioner. Ann Moore seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Dupre suggested that the committee use a few minutes at each meeting to discuss and think about what our role is, what kind of process do we follow, what policy issues should we be looking at and what relationship does this committee have with the DMH Commissioner.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next meeting of the VSH Steering Committee will be April 15, 2009 at 1:30 pm in the VSH Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty
Minute Taker